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Appointment of foreign nationals as temple trustees in South Arcot district.

* 570 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state the number of foreign nationals appointed by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board as trustees of temples in South Arcot district now?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Three foreign nationals have been appointed as trustees of temples in South Arcot district by the Area Committee. "

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, three foreign nationals have been appointed as trustees for the temples in South Arcot district. When the properties of these temples are entrusted to their management, if they commit offences like embezzlement, defalcation or misappropriation, is there any provision in our Constitution to punish them even though some of the properties belonging to these temples lie in the Pondicherry area? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" An appeal could be made to the Government who would go into the question."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, may I know the reasons or the necessity for the appointment of these foreign nationals in spite of the repeated representations made by the Area Committee? Will the Government consider the question of dismissing them and appointing persons from the Indian Union? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, the Government have recently received a representation from the public and that is being looked into."

Construction of the hospital building at Sendurai, Udaiyarpalayam taluk.

* 571 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the cost of construction of the hospital building at Sendurai, Udaiyarpalayam taluk;

(*b*) the kind and cost of tiles as proposed in the estimate; and

(*c*) the kind and cost of tiles actually used for its construction?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Rs. 27,204-10-0.

" (*b*) Mangalore tiles of Basel Mission type, Rs. 19 per hundred.

" (*c*) Mangalore tiles of the Little Flower Company, Malabar, Rs. 15 per hundred."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Sir, may I know the reason for the deviation from the original estimate? Is it the fault of the contractor or that of the officers concerned? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the actual cost of construction is less than the estimated cost. The estimated cost was Rs. 31,000 while the cost of construction was Rs. 27,204–10–0."

Pest attack on paddy crops in Tirunelveli district.

* 572 *Q.*—SRI S. T. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether paddy crops have been attacked by insects in various places of Tirunelveli district;

(*b*) the extent of damage; and

(*c*) measures taken by the Government for combating the attack and for relieving the distress of the agriculturists affected?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Director of Agriculture has reported that practically the entire crop has been saved.

" (*c*) As soon as the Government came to know of the pest attack, the Director of Agriculture was asked to instruct the District Agricultural Officer to take necessary action in the matter. The Government understand that necessary steps have been taken by the District Agricultural Officer to arrest the pest attack. The District Agricultural Officer with the special staff visited the affected areas and distributed pesticides to the ryots. The latter were also educated in the use of pesticides by means of leaflets. The departmental staff will continue the pest control work as long as it is necessary."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" Sir, as there was not enough stock of the pesticides during the affected period, will the Government take care to see that sufficient stocks are always kept in store? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, as I have said, Tirunelveli is a district where this pest attack has been effectively controlled. During the first few days of the attack there was not sufficient stock but it had been augmented. The Agricultural departments got the vans of the Ramanathapuram and Madurai districts also, took them to Tirunelveli and all possible steps were taken."

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" பூச்சி விழுந்ததன் காரணமாக விளைச்சல் குறைவாகக்கண்டது. இதன் நிமித்தமாக வாரம் கட்டுக் குத்தகை கொடுக்கக்கூடிய விவசாயிகளுக்கும் நிலச்சுவான்தார்களுக்கும் தகராறு ஏற்பட்டிருப்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா ? சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்தார்கள் ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the crops had not been damaged considerably on account of this pest attack. Regarding the troubles that arose between the tenants and the landlords, the question may be addressed to the concerned Minister."